



KARO ECHO Newsletter

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities of El Cerrito and Kensington, California

Web: www.karoecho.net

Facebook:
[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

Email: info@karoecho.net

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz
4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings
2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm

(online via Zoom for now)

Arlington Park Clubhouse,
1120 Arlington Blvd,
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

June 8th, 2020
July 13th, 2020

Meeting minutes are on the website in the past events page.

What's New

KARO ECHO Monthly Meeting, June 8th, 1900 — **ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

Because the city clubhouse location remains closed to public meetings, the monthly KARO ECHO meeting will once again be held using the Zoom online meeting app, at the usual time, 1900, Monday June 8th. Look for the link to join in a KARO ECHO email from Howdy KE6BEE. The agenda will include training and exercises prepared by Don NI6A NCS operations, Net Operating Procedures, Signaling NCS, and Message Handling and a continuation of our discussion of increasing local FRS/GMRS neighborhood nets and connections to a ham operator hubs, by inviting reports of existing ongoing activates from members to increase awareness and provide inspiration for others.

Fire Alert Cameras Viewable by the Public

With peak fire season upon us, there is an increasing need to utilize technology to detect, notify and confirm potential wildland fires in our parks.

“ALERTWildfire”, a consortium of three universities, the University of Nevada, Reno, University of California San Diego, and the University of Oregon, has been working with PG&E and other entities to install and provide access to state-of-the-art Pan-Tilt-Zoom fire cameras throughout the state. Fire Departments have access to control these cameras when needed to help discover, locate, and confirm fire ignitions and help manage response. The public can view these cameras online, but not control the orientation. Here are example cameras in our area:

[Vollmer Peak cam](#)

[Nichol Knob cam](#)

Real Time State Wide Weather Data

Also new, PG&E has installed numerous weather stations in the County with more in progress and planned. One can [view real-time data from any weather station in the state](#).

Successful introductory radio use class

Thanks go out to Jay KJ6WSS and Karen KK6ZPM for their May 23rd introductory (virtual) radio class and on-the-air exercise, with emphasis on the GMRS radio BTECH-V1. There was a very good turnout of participants new to radio communication. [A recording of the class and other resources are available here](#).

LOCAL NETS**KARO ECHO NET**

146.415 MHz Simplex

Thursday eve, immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 hours local time.

West Contra County ACS/RACES Net

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net

3893 KHz

Thursday: 1835 local time

American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX +5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Hal KK6NDF

Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO

Secretary: Natalie KM6UCF

Outreach Manager:

Annette, KJ6SWK

Emergency Coordinator:

(also newsletter and net coordinator)

Howdy KE6BEE

Webmaestro: Rob K6RJM

What's New (*continued*)**Neighborhood Communication Hub Activities**

There has been discussion at the past two KE membership meetings about interfacing neighborhood (FRS/GMRS) communication hubs to the KaroEcho ham network. We are happy to report that CERT EC9 had its first standalone GMRS/FRS net (the prior two nets were supported by a simultaneous Zoom online assist). We had 13 check-ins, practiced changing frequencies, and mapping the area using the Q1-Q5 scale. We were joined by Richmond operators Karen and Jay (KK6ZPM and KJ6WSS), Diane (KK6RED), and EC4 CERT coordinator, Rob, K6RJM. KE6BEE operated as NCS from the Tassajara Park Club House on both 146.415 mHz and GMRS Channel 15 simplex simultaneously. Mike KM6CXI arranged for the net as EC9 CERT Area Coordinator. The Richmond operating location was very useful to relay between the north portion of the El Cerrito Hills and the southern portion because there is no a reliable direct path along the terrain of the hills.

The EC9 GMRS/FRS Net will continue to meet regularly on Ch. 15 simplex, at 1900 on the first Wednesday of the month. You all are welcome to join and train. It also serves as inspiration to start more of these neighborhood hub activities.

Speaking of GMRS/FRS nets, Karen, KK6ZPM along with Jay, KJ6WSS and Edward, KM6UBY run an excellent net at 11 am also on the first Wednesday of the month on Ch. 15 simplex. Participation is high with around 25, from Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Berkeley, Oakland, and Kensington.

Our collective vision is that eventually every neighborhood will have access to reliable communication during disasters when conventional comms are down through a linked FRS, GMRS, and Ham radio nets (local to regional).

Antenna Repair Assistance

Thank you to Mike, KM6CXI and Don, NI6A. Who helped Natalie KM6UCF install a new Tram 1480 dual-band antenna and 30' of LMR400 coax installed on her roof. Her previous antenna and feedline degraded after getting wet inside. The Tram antennas are excellent but seem to often leak at the gasket connection between the two sections. It is recommended to spread silicone caulk all around the junction between the top and bottom sections.

Welcome New Hams

New El Cerrito licenses issued: none in past month

New Kensington licenses issued: none in past month

New GMRS licenses of KE members: Armando, KE6HCE, GMRS: WRFX632 and Natalie, KM6UCF, GMRS: WRFP786

Activities

Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster has 9 operators. There are opportunities for others to fill in when a regular station has a scheduling conflict and there is always room to add more stations to the rotation. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Below are the current scheduled dates for each operator. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the “+GoogleCalendar” button in the lower right.

Net control is a skill that many operators should have and regularly practice. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: 7/4/2019, 11/28/2019)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	6/20/2019	8/29/2019	10/31/2019	1/9/2020	3/12/2020	5/14/2020	7/16/2020
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	6/27/2019	9/5/2019	11/7/2019	1/16/2020	3/19/2020	5/21/2020	7/23/2020
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	7/11/2019	9/12/2019	11/14/2019	1/23/2020	3/26/2020	5/28/2020	7/30/2020
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow	7/18/2019	9/19/2019	11/21/2019	1/30/2020	4/2/2020	6/4/2020	8/6/2020
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	7/25/2019	9/26/2019	12/5/2019	2/6/2020	4/9/2020	6/11/2020	8/13/2020
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	8/1/2019	10/3/2019	12/12/2019	2/13/2020	4/16/2020	6/18/2020	8/20/2020
NI6A	Don Simon	8/8/2019	10/10/2019	12/19/2019	2/20/2020	4/23/2020	6/25/2020	8/27/2020
KM6TCB	Dave Roth	8/15/2019	10/17/2019	12/26/2019	2/27/2020	4/30/2020	7/2/2020	9/3/2020
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	8/22/2019	10/24/2019	1/2/2020	3/5/2020	5/7/2020	7/9/2020	9/10/2020

Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900 on 146.415, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications.

[A list of potential training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website.

Our weekly net check-ins counts for 2020 are up strongly. Over the last 10 nets we have averaged 22 participants and three of those nets had 24 check-ins. In past years we averaged 14-15/week. Overall, it is great to see that more operators are active. Thanks for your participation. Keep it up!

About KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The next meetings are:

- ◆ June 8th, 2020
- ◆ July 13th, 2020

Yearly membership dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Payments can be given to the Treasurer at monthly meetings or mailed to the address below. Participation is welcome independent of paid membership, but only licensed amateur radio operators who are dues paying KARO ECHO members will be allowed to vote on KARO ECHO business. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications is welcome.

Mail to: KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: www.karoecho.net

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: info@karoecho.net

KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](#) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/> Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

KARO-ECHO Frequencies

The KARO ECHO primary frequency is 146.415 MHz simplex. Our secondary frequency is 146.475 MHz simplex, creating a 60 KHz spread between operating frequencies that will reduced adjacent frequency desensing.

Outreach, Education and Licensing

EMCOMM related videos

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLln4c&list=PLROOaUlKdrEgSID1bQIZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

Post Camp Fire GMRS organization

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&v=aZiSC4sgKYw&feature=emb_logo

ELMERING

Elmering/Mentoring is available by request. Email info@karoecho.net

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature to be created.

KAROECHO.Net Website

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (<https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ◆ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ◆ If you haven't already filled out the JOIN form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ◆ A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhAhJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>
- ◆ Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-ducky world is at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgWI/view
- ◆ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ◆ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
- ◆ Following the Thursday evening net check-in, there is often a training session and/or discussion.
- ◆ All recent KARO ECHO [Minutes](#) will be found at our [Past Events page](#) We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page](#).

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email info@karoecho.net